



**H.E. President João Manuel Gonçalves Lourenço**  
***President of the Republic of Angola***

President João Manuel Gonçalves Lourenço has served as President of Angola since 2017. He was born on March 5, 1954, in the city of Lobito, Benguela, the son of a seamstress and nurse. He completed his primary and secondary studies in Bié province and at the Luanda Industrial Institute. From 1978 to 1982, he received military training in the then-soviet Union, specializing in heavy artillery. He also obtained a Master's of Historical Science and is fluent in English, Russian and Spanish.



In August 1974 he participated in the National Liberation struggle, led by the MPLA, having taken his first political-military instruction at the Revolutionary Instruction Center – CIR 'Kalunga' – in Congo Brazzaville. He was part of the first group of MPLA fighters that in 1974 entered national territory, via Miconge, heading for the city of Cabinda.

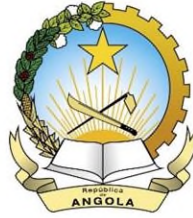
On the eve of independence, he fought against the invasion of the Zairean army that intended to occupy Angola. He also served as Political Commissioner of the then Popular Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola (FAPLA) at various levels, including as Political Commissioner of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Political-Military Region of Cabinda.

During the 1980s, he participated in various military operations. In 1983 he held the Presidency of the Regional Military Council of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Political-Military Region. In the Armed Forces, he also served as Head of the Political Directorate of the FAPLA, from 1989 to 1990. He is currently General-de-Três-Stars, in reserve, of the Angolan Armed Forces (FAA).

His public service career began in 1983, at the age of 29, when he served as Provincial Commissioner of Moxico, equivalent to the current position of Provincial Governor. He later served as Provincial Commissioner of Benguela. He has been a member of the MPLA's Central Committee since 1985; a member of its Political Bureau since 1990 and; following the VII Ordinary Congress of the MPLA, held in 2016, he was elected Vice-President of the MPLA. In 2014, he was appointed Minister of National Defense, a position he held until the beginning of his 2017 presidential campaign.

At the parliamentary level, President Lourenço was President of the MPLA Parliamentary Group, from 1991 to 1998, and later President of the Constitutional Commission of the National Assembly, having performed the functions of 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President of the National Assembly, from 2003 to 2014.

President Lourenço's hobbies include reading, chess, horseback riding, and learning about new technologies. He is married to Ana Afonso Dias Lourenço and father of six children.



**H.E. Vera Esperança dos Santos Daves de Sousa**

***Minister of Finance***

***Republic of Angola***

Minster Daves serves as Minister of Finance. Appointed in 2019, she is the first woman to serve as Minister of Finance in Angola.

Prior to serving as Minister of Finance, she served as Secretary of State for Finance and Treasury. She also served as Chairwoman of the Capital Market Commission and Director of the Products and Research Office of Atlantic Private Bank.



Minister Daves has lectured about financial markets at the Catholic Business School Alliance and also authored a book on public finance.

Minister Daves was born in Luanda and studied at the Catholic University of Angola.



**H.E. Ambassador Victor Manuel Rita da Fonseca Lima**

***Secretary for Diplomatic Affairs and International Cooperation to the President of the Republic***

***Office of the Presidency of Angola***



H.E. Ambassador Victor Manuel Rita da Fonseca Lima (“Victor Lima”) is the Secretary for Diplomatic Affairs and International Cooperation to the President of the Republic of Angola, H.E. João Lourenço. Ambassador Lima’s position is similar to that of National Security Advisor. An experienced diplomat, Ambassador Lima has served as Angolan Ambassador to Spain, France, Japan, and South Korea. He has also led Angola’s engagement at the United Nations and with other multinational organizations. He began his diplomatic career in the Embassy of Angola to the former Soviet Union. He speaks Portuguese, French, English, and Spanish and holds degrees in commerce and history.





**H.E. Ambassador Tete António**  
***Minister of Foreign Affairs***  
***Republic of Angola***



H.E. Ambassador Tete António is the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Angola. He previously served as Secretary of State for External Relations; Representative of the African Union to the United Nations; Diplomatic Adviser to the President of the African Union Commission; and Minister Counselor at the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Angola to the United Nations.

Ambassador Tété António was also a member of the Angolan delegation to the United Nations Security Council (2003-2004), Principal Expert during the Angolan Presidency of the UN Peacebuilding Commission; Adviser to the President of the 59th Session of the UN General Assembly (2004-2005); Director of the Office of the Vice Minister of External Relations (1999-2002); African Union Political Observer to the United Nations Mission for the Organization of a Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) based in El Aiune, Western Sahara from 1997 to 1999; Diplomat at the Embassy of the Republic of Angola in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, and Permanent Mission to the African Union (1993-1997), Official of the African Union and Specialized Institutions Department of the Africa and Middle East Directorate of the Ministry of External Relations and Employee of IMPORTANG assigned to the Ministry of Foreign Trade.

Ambassador Tété António joined several African Union election observation missions and attended several study missions to countries emerged from conflict by the UN Peacebuilding Commission; Participated in several meetings of the UN, African Union, South Atlantic Peace and Cooperation Zone, the UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), the Southern African Development Community (SADC), the Economic Commission of Central African States (ECCAS) and the Common Market of Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA).

He speaks fluently and writes Portuguese, English, French, Russian, Kikongo and Lingala.

He co-authored the book entitled: "Angola at the UN Security Council (2003-2004), Experience and Practical Contribution to Conflict Resolution in Africa".



**H.E. Joaquim do Espírito Santo**

***Ambassador of the Republic of Angola to the United States  
Republic of Angola***



Ambassador Joaquim do Espírito Santo (born July 12, 1959 in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo) presented his credentials to the President of the United States on September 16, 2019. Before arriving to Washington, he served as the Director for Africa, Middle East and Regional Organizations in Angola's Ministry of External Relations from 2011-2018. A career diplomat, Ambassador Espírito Santo also served as Minister-Counselor at the Angolan Embassy to France from 2004-2009 and as Minister-Counselor and Chargé d'Affaires at the Angolan Embassy to Mexico from 2002-2004.

Prior to that, Ambassador Espírito Santo served in various senior positions in Angola's Ministry of External Relations, including as the Director for Europe. Throughout his career, Ambassador Espírito Santo has represented Angola as part of several high-level international delegations and in bilateral and multilateral negotiations, including at the African Union and the United Nations. He is also an accomplished lecturer, having presented around the world on issues related to African development, peace, and security.

Ambassador Espírito Santo holds a degree in economics from Agostinho Neto University (Luanda, Angola) and a master's degree in political science from the School of Advanced Political Studies (Paris, France). He is multilingual, speaking Portuguese, English, French, Spanish, and some African languages. Ambassador Espírito Santo is married with two children.